

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1061–S1112

Measures Introduced: Ninety-seven bills and twenty-one resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1068–1164, S.J. Res. 23–24, and S. Res. 139–157.

Pages S1088–92

Measures Passed:

Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 777, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2023, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S1066–69

National Women in Agriculture Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 120, designating March 23, 2023, as "National Women in Agriculture Day", and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S1081

Recognizing American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Women: Senate agreed to S. Res. 148, recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States.

Page S1081

National Asbestos Awareness Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 149, designating the first week of April 2023 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week".

Page S1081

Honoring the Victims of the Covenant School Attack: Senate agreed to S. Res. 150, honoring the memories of the victims of the senseless attack at the Covenant School on March 27, 2023.

Page S1081

Administrative False Claims Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 659, to amend chapter 38 of title 31, United States Code, relating to civil remedies, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S1081–82

Measures Considered:

Fire Grants and Safety Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S1062–66, S1079

Pending:

Schumer Amendment No. 58, to add an effective date.

Page S1063

Prior to the consideration of this measure today, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

Page S1063

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S1063

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Amy Lefkowitz Solomon, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Page S1079

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the filing deadline for first degree amendments to the bill be at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, April 17, 2023.

Page S1110

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, April 3, 2023, at 12 noon; Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 10 a.m.; Monday, April 10, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.; and Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 8:45 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, April 13, 2023, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, April 17, 2023.

Page S1110

Plumb Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Radha Iyengar Plumb, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Page S1078

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, March 30, 2023, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, April 17, 2023. **Page S1078**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1078**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, April 17, 2023, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, and that all motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of Thursday, March 30, 2023, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, April 17, 2023. **Page S1110**

Solomon Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Amy Lefkowitz Solomon, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General. **Page S1079**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Radha Iyengar Plumb, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. **Page S1079**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1078**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1079**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 67 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. EX. 81), Richard R. Verma, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources. **Pages S1069–70**

By 63 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. EX. 82), Laura Taylor-Kale, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. **Page S1075**

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. **Pages S1079–80**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Douglas Dziak, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for the remainder of the term expiring October 26, 2024.

Nisha Desai Biswal, of Virginia, to be Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation.

Herro Mustafa Garg, of California, to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Richard H. Riley IV, of California, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Mark Toner, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

5 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

2 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Foreign Service. **Pages S1110–11**

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Gigi B. Sohn, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2021, which was sent to the Senate on January 3, 2023.

Phillip A. Washington, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years, which was sent to the Senate on January 3, 2023. **Page S1112**

Messages from the House: **Pages S1087–88**

Executive Communications: **Page S1088**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1092–93**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1093–S1108**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1085–87**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1108–09**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1109–10**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S1110**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—82) **Pages S1069–70, S1075**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:26 p.m., until 12 noon on Monday, April 3, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1110.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FARM BILL

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Subcommittee on Conservation, Climate, Forestry, and Natural Resources, to hold hearings to examine forestry in the Farm Bill, focusing on the importance of America's forests, after receiving testimony from

Tony Cheng, Colorado State University Forest Restoration Institute, Fort Collins; Troy Harris, Jamestown, L.P., Atlanta, Georgia; Jason Hartman, National Association of State Foresters, Manhattan, Kansas; Jim Neiman, Neiman Enterprises, Hulett, Wyoming; and Sally Palmer, The Nature Conservancy, Nashville, Tennessee.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Christine E. Wormuth, Secretary, and General James C. McConville, USA, Chief of Staff, both of the Army, Department of Defense.

PETROCHEMICALS TO WASTE

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight concluded a hearing to examine petrochemicals to waste, focusing on the lifecycle, environmental, and climate effects of plastic, after receiving testimony from Arvind P. Ravikumar, University of Texas Energy Emissions Modeling and Data Lab, Austin; Chelsea Rochman, University of Toronto Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; and Hota GangaRao, West Virginia University Wadsworth Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Morgantown.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG SUPPLY CHAIN

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine pharmacy benefit managers and the prescription drug supply chain, focusing on the impact

on patients and taxpayers, after receiving testimony from Robin Feldman, University of California College of the Law, San Francisco; Karen Van Nuys, University of Southern California Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, Los Angeles; Lawton Robert Burns, University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, Philadelphia; Jonathan Levitt, Frier Levitt Attorneys at Law, Pine Brook, New Jersey; and Matthew Gibbs, Capital Rx Inc., New York, New York.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Nicole D. Theriot, of Louisiana, to be Ambassador to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Ann Marie Yastishock, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, Robin Dunnigan, of California, to be Ambassador to Georgia, who was introduced by Senator Sullivan, and David J. Kostelancik, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

GUARDIANSHIP

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine guardianship and alternatives, focusing on protection and empowerment, after receiving testimony from Nick Parker, Indiana Adult Guardianship Office, Indianapolis; Karrie A. Shogren, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities, Lawrence; Tina Paone, Lansdale, Pennsylvania; and Ryan H. King and Susie King, both of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 58 public bills, H.R. 12, 2400–2456; and 14 resolutions, H.J. Res. 46–49; H. Con. Res. 31–32; and H. Res. 266–273, were introduced. **Pages H1689–93**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1695–96**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows: H.R. 1376. A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to declassify information relating

to the origin of COVID–19, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–32, Part 1). **Page H1689**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Flood to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1661**

Lower Energy Costs Act: The House passed H.R. 1, to lower energy costs by increasing American energy production, exports, infrastructure, and critical

minerals processing, by promoting transparency, accountability, permitting, and production of American resources, and by improving water quality certification and energy projects, by a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 182. Consideration began Tuesday, March 28th. **Pages H1662–78**

Rejected the Porter motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources, by a yea-and-nay vote of 207 yeas to 222 nays, Roll No. 181. **Pages H1677–78**

Agreed to:

Ogles amendment (No. 30 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–30) that expresses the Sense of Congress that the royalty rate for onshore Federal oil and gas leases be 12.5%; **Page H1662–64**

Perry amendment (No. 32 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–30) that adds a prohibition to sec. 20209 on contributions from CCP entities; **Page H1665**

Perry amendment (No. 33 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–30) that adds a reporting requirement to sec. 20209 on non-Federal entities; **Pages H1665–66**

Graves (LA) amendment (No. 37 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–30) that provides regulatory certainty by explicitly authorizing the common practice of NPDES general permits and providing for continuances during times of administrative delay; **Pages H1670–72**

Westerman amendment (No. 20 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–30) that was debated on March 29th that prohibits the Communist Party of China (or a person acting on behalf of the Communist Party of China) from acquiring any interest with respect to American farmland or any lands used for American renewable energy production (by a recorded vote of 407 yeas to 26 noes, Roll No. 174); **Pages H1672–73**

Leger Fernandez amendment (No. 25 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–30) that was debated on March 29th that requires each local unit of the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Forest Service to develop a plan to disseminate and advertise open civil service positions with functions relating to permitting and natural resources in their offices; each plan shall include outreach to local high schools, community colleges, institutions of higher education, and any other relevant institutions (by a recorded vote of 323 yeas to 109 noes, Roll No. 175); **Pages H1673–74**

Ogles amendment (No. 31 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–30) that provides that any entity subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the People's Republic of China, or any entity that is owned by the Government of the People's Republic of China may not acquire any interest with respect to lands leased for oil or gas under the Mineral Leasing Act, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and

may not acquire claims subject to the General Mining Law of 1872 (by a recorded vote of 405 yeas to 24 noes, Roll No. 177); **Pages H1674–75**

Smith (NJ) amendment (No. 35 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–30) that requires a Government Accountability Office study of sufficiency of the environmental review process for offshore wind (by a recorded vote of 244 yeas to 189 noes, Roll No. 179); and **Pages H1668–69, H1676**

Van Drew amendment (No. 36 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–30) that requires the Government Accountability Office to publish a report on all potential adverse effects of wind energy development in the North Atlantic Planning Area (by a recorded vote of 220 yeas to 213 noes, Roll No. 180). **Pages H1669–70, H1676–77**

Rejected:

Levin amendment (No. 26 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–30) that was debated on March 29th that sought to strike Title V of Division B, to prevent the bill from repealing the Inflation Reduction Act's reforms to the oil and gas leasing program (by a recorded vote of 205 yeas to 228 noes, Roll No. 176); and **Page H1674**

Perry amendment (No. 34 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–30) that sought to add to sec. 20305 an exception for certain actions under the Defense Production Act (by a recorded vote of 201 yeas to 230 noes, Roll No. 178). **Pages H1666–68, H1675–76**

Agreed by unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 1, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings. **Page H1678**

H. Res. 260, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1) was agreed to Tuesday, March 28th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 3rd. **Page H1678**

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from Friday, March 31, 2023, through Sunday, April 17, 2023, as a “district work period” under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5. **Page H1679**

Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Council—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following individual on the part of the House to the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Council: Mrs. Martha Hill of Little Rock, Arkansas. **Page H1679**

Senate Referrals: S. 316 was held at the desk. S. 777 was held at the desk. **Page H1679**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H1679.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and seven recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1672–73, H1673–74, H1674, H1674–75, H1675–76, H1676, H1676–77, H1677–78, and H1678.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Agriculture. Testimony was heard from John Rapp, Director, Office of Budget and Program Analysis, Department of Agriculture; and Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Schrier and Landsman.

CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS: CONFLICT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation held a hearing entitled “Cyberspace Operations: Conflict in the 21st Century”. Testimony was heard from John F. Plumb, Principal Cyber Advisor to the Secretary of Defense, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy, Department of Defense; and General Paul M. Nakasone, U.S. Army, Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, Department of Defense.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ANIMAL DRUG USER FEE PROGRAMS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Reauthorization of the Animal Drug User Fee Programs”. Testimony was heard from Tracey Forfa, Director, Center for Veterinary Medicine, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

HEARING ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government held

a hearing entitled “Hearing on the Weaponization of the Federal Government”. Testimony was heard from Senator Schmitt; Jeff Landry, Attorney General, Louisiana; D. John Sauer, Special Assistant Attorney General, Louisiana Department of Justice; and a public witness.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION: HARNESSING THE EVOLUTION OF FLIGHT TO DELIVER FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled “FAA Reauthorization: Harnessing the Evolution of Flight to Deliver for the American People”. Testimony was heard from Roxana Kennedy, Chief of Police, Chula Vista, California; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on H.R. 291, the “Vaccine Discharge Parity Act”; H.R. 645, the “Healthy Foundations for Homeless Veterans Act”; H.R. 728, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training to carry out a pilot program on short-term programs for veterans; H.R. 746, the “Streamlining Aviation for Eligible Veterans Act”; H.R. 1169, the “VA E-Notification Enhancement Act”; legislation on the Protect Military Dependents Act; legislation on the Filipino Education Fairness Act; legislation on the Get Rewarding Outdoor Work for our Veterans Act; legislation on the Ensure Military Personnel Learn Opportunities Yielding Vocations that Employ Transitioning Servicemembers Act; legislation on the VET–TEC Authorization Act of 2023; and legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that educational assistance paid under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs to an individual who pursued a program or course of education that was suspended or terminated by reason of a determination of fraud shall not be charged against the entitlement of the individual, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Veterans Affairs officials: Joseph Garcia, Executive Director of Education Service; Keith Harris, Senior Executive Homelessness Agent; Nick Pamperin, Executive Director of Veteran Readiness and Employment; and public witnesses.

BUDGET HEARING ON THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Budget Hearing on the Office of the Director of National Intelligence”. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Monday, April 3

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Monday, April 3

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 2 p.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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